

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the Office Action of June 9, 2003. The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 1-25 are novel and not obvious over the art of record. With respect to the outstanding rejections, this submission is considered fully responsive thereto.

Claims 3 and 20 have been amended, while new claims 26-33 have been added. Claim 3 has been amended to more clearly identify what is being passed onto a further bleaching stage. Claim 20 has been amended to correct a typographical error that inadvertently rendered it dependent from claim 4. Support for claim 26 is found at lines 2-4 of paragraph 0036. Support for claim 27 is found at lines 5-7 of paragraph 0036. Support for claim 28 is found at lines 5-7 of paragraph 0036. Support for claim 29 is found at lines 5-6 of paragraph 0042. Support for claim 30 is found at lines 6-8 of paragraph 0042. Support for claim 31 is found at lines 6-8 of paragraph 0042. Support for claim 32 is found at lines 4-7 of paragraph 0043. Support for claim 33 is found at lines 4-5 of paragraph 0087.

In the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-25 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over U.S. Patent Application No. 10/201,248 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,579,412). Applicants attach hereto a copy of the Terminal Disclaimer (TD) submitted on December 12, 2002. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the PAIR page of the USPTO web site where it is seen that the TD was received as paper number 21. In that same December 12 submission, Applicants paid the fee required under 37

CFR §1.20(d). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejection has been overcome.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully assert that all of the claims are patentable and the Examiner's rejections fully overcome. Thus, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone call would expedite prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below. A fee for newly added dependent claims 26-33 and a petition for a three month extension with required fee are included with this submission. Otherwise, it is believed that no further fee is due at this time. If that belief is found incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to debit the assignee's deposit account 01-1375 for any fees necessary for a complete reply to the Office Action of June 9, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher J. Cronin
Registration No. 46,513

Date: December 9, 2003
Air Liquide
2700 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1800
Houston, Texas 77056
(713) 624-8956 Phone
(713) 624-8950 Fax

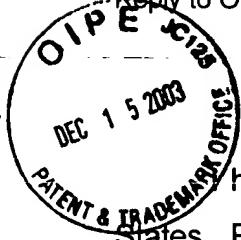
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Christopher J. Cronin
Reg. No. 46,513

Application No. 09/852,786
Amendment dated December 9, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 9, 2003



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Christopher J. Cronin
Reg. No. 46,513